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Message Text

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47
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10

COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 /081 W
---------- 080269
R 311220Z OCT 75
FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6044
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY MADRID

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, SW
SUBJECT: CONFLICT BETWEEN-PRIME MINISTER AND CONSERVATIVE
LEADER HIGHLIGHTS PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE

1. SUMMARY. AN ACRIMONIOUS EXCHANGE BETWEEN PRIME MINISTER PALME AND MODERATE (CONSERVATIVE) PARTY LEADER GOSTA BOHMAN ENLIVENED THE OTHERWISE UNREMARKABLE PROCEEDINGS DURING THE SWEDISH PARLIAMENT'S (RIKSDAG) ANNUAL GENERAL DEBATE OCTOBER 29-30. THE PRIME MINISTER REJECTED SUGGESTIONS THAT AID TO THE SPANISH OPPOSITION BY THE GOVERNING SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY CONSTITUTED ASSISTANCE TO TERRORISM. THE QUESTION OF THE ABORTIVE ATTEMPT TO SMUGGLE CURRENCY FROM SWEDEN TO THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES IN THE FINNISH METAL WORKERS ELECTIONS WAS RAISED BY BOHMAN AND BY LIBERAL PARTY LEADER GUNNAR HELEN, WHO ASKED THAT PRIME MINISTER CLEAR UP THE ISSUE BY DIVULGING EXACTLY WHERE THE MONEY ORIGINATED. ALTHOUGH DENYING THE PARTY'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE SMUGGLING ATTEMPT,PALME ASSERTED THAT "FINLAND'S
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CAUSE IS OUR OWN." END SUMMARY.

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2. NEARLY HALF OF PALME'S PREPARED STATEMENT LEADING OFF THE DEBATE WAS DEVOTED TO A DENUNCIATION OF MODERATE PARTY LEADER BOHMAN. PALME BITTERLY CRITICIZED A STATEMENT MADE BY BOHMAN SEVERAL WEEKS AGO IMPLYING THAT THE SWEDISH SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY, BY ASSISTING OPPOSITION FORCES IN SPAIN, IS IN EFFECT AIDING TERRORISM. THE PRIME MINISTER INSISTED THAT THE SWEDISH SOCIAL DEMOCRATS HAD FOR 40 YEARS ASSISTED THE "PEACEFUL" DEVELOPMENT OF DEMOCRACY IN SPAIN, AND ASSERTED THAT THE PARTY HAD "NEVER" SUPPORTED GROUPS ADVOCATING VIOLENCE. PALME SAID HE DISCERNED A RECENT PATTERN BY THE EUROPEAN RIGHTWING OF A POLICY OF CONFRONTATION WITH SOCIAL DEMOCRACY, AND CHARGED THAT BY HIS TACTICS BOHMAN HAD "BRUTALIZED" SWEDISH POLITICS. INSISTING THAT HIS STATEMENT ON AID TO SPAIN HAD BEEN MISINTERPRETED, THE MODERATE LEADER COUNTERED THAT IT WAS THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY WHICH HAD "BRUTALIZED" SWEDISH POLITICS. AND SWITCHING TO THE OFFENSIVE, BOHMAN CHARGED THAT "POLITICAL DECENCY" REQUIRES THAT A PARTY IN GOVERNMENT NOT ACT AS AN "INTERMEDIARY" FOR MONEY OF UNKNOWN ORIGIN, AS IN THE FINNISH CURRENCY SMUGGLING CASE. (STOCKHOLM 5457)

3. PARTICIPATINGIN HIS FINAL GENERAL DEBATE, OUTGOING LIBERAL PARTY LEADER GUNNAR HELEN, IN MORE MEASURED TERMS THAN THE MODERATE LEADER, ASKED PALME TO CLEAR UP THE CONTROVERSY OVER THE SMUGGLED CURRENCY BY REVEALING THE ORIGINAL SOURCE OF THE FUNDS. THE PRIME MINISTER SHOULD KNOW THE SOURCE OF HELEN CONTINUED, SINCE HE WAS ABLE TO UNQUALIFIEDLY STATE THAT IT WAS NOT RPT NOT THE CIA. FURTHERMORE, HELEN ASSERTED, IT WAS "POORT" OF THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS TO PIN THE BLAME ON THE PARTY'S CASHIER; THE LEADERSHIP OF A POLITICAL PARTY HAS THE "ULTIMATE RESPONSIBILITY" FOR SUCH ACTIONS. THE PRIME MINISTER REPLIED THAT THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS HAD COMPLETELY REVEALED THE SWEDISH ROLE IN THE CONTROVERSY, ADDING THAT IT WAS "UP TO OTHERS" TO REPORT WHERE THE MONEY ORIGINATED. PALME ALSO ASSERTED THAT THE PARTY DID NOT RPT NOT KNOW ABOUT THE TRANSACTION, SINCE THE PARTY TREASURER ACTED ON HIS OWN. HOWEVER, PALME DEFENDED THE GENERAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PRINCIPLE OF AID TO FINLAND, ASSERTING THAT "FINLAND'S CAUSE IS OURS," ADDING THAT THE DEMOCRATIC LABOR MOVEMENT IN FINLAND IS A "PROTECTION" FOR FINNISH DEMOCRACY AND INDEPENDENCE.

4. SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY SECRETARY STEN ANDERSSON PROPOSED THAT AN IMPARTIAL COMMITTEE BE APPOINTED TO STUDY THE EXTENT AND PURPOSE OF THE PARTIES' ASSISTANCE TO

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POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS IN OTHER COUNTRIES.
WHILE THIS WAS ACCEPTED BY THE LIBERAL AND CENTER PARTIES,
BOHMAN SAID APPOINTMENT OF SUCH A COMMITTEE SHOULD BE
DELAYED UNTIL THE POLICE HAD COMPLETED THEIR INVESTIGATION
OF THE ABORTIVE ATTEMPT TO SMUGGLE FUNDS TO THE FINNISH
METAL WORKERS.

5. THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO CRITICIZED THE OPPOSITION OF
CENTER PARTY LEADER FALLDIN TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF
NUCLEAR POWER. PALME ASKED RHETORICALLY WHAT THE
ALTERNATIVE TO NUCLEAR POWER WOULD BE, POINTING OUT THAT
HE POSED THE QUESTION "BECAUSE I KNOW THAT MR. FALLDIN HAS
NO ANSWER." THE PRIME MINISTER ADDED: "IT IS ALMOST
EMBARRASSING TO HAVE TO TELL MR. FALLDIN THAT INVESTMENTS
IN INDUSTRY WILL NOT CREATE NEW JOBS UNLESS OUR SUPPLY OF
ENERGY IS GUARANTEED." HOWEVER, THE ASSURED HIS CRITICS
THAT THE PARTY WOULD NOT SUPPORT THE LABOR CONFEDERATION'S
(LO) PROPOSAL FOR NATIONALIZATION OF LAND. "WE HAVE NO
INTENTION WHATSOEVEROF RAISING THIS ISSUE," PALME SAID.

6. COMMENT: BY CONCENTRATING HIS ATTACK ON THE
CONSERVATIVE MODERATE PARTY AND ITS LEADER GOSTA BOHMAN,
THE PRIME MINISTER APPEARED TO BE ATTEMPTING TO PORTRAY
THE MODERATES AS A RIGHT-WING PARTY OF CONFRONTATION.
THIS WOULD BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY
AIM OF ISOLATING THE MODERATES FROM THE OTHER TWO
OPPOSITION PARTIES - THE CENTER AND LIBERALS - IN
ORDER TO MAKE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE THREE PARTIES
AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT MORE DIFFICULT. STRAUSZ-HUPE'

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